

REMARKS

Claims 7, 11, 14, 21, 22, and 24-64 are pending in this application, all of which stand rejected. Following entry of the amendment, claims 7, 14, 21, 24, 33, 44, and 54 will have been amended.

Applicants respectfully submit that the grounds for rejection are moot in view of the amendment. In particular, each of the independent claims has been amended to recite certain features relating to the encryption of a public portion of a key pair, where the key pair is bound or issued to a particular device, and wherein the binding or issuance has taken place upon condition that such binding or issuance will not cause the number of devices to which the key pair is issued or bound to exceed a limit. These features concerning the binding or issuance of key pairs to a device, and the imposing of limits on such binding or key pairs, are not taught in either the Levergood, Eberhard, or Barnes references that have been applied.

The claim amendments do not add new matter. The claim amendments are supported by the original application, at least at page 35, lines 2-20.

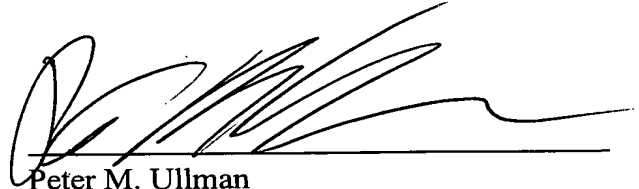
Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to U.S. Patent Application 09/604,222, which is cited in the communication dated October 22, 2004, and in which the subject of limits on the number of devices on which the use of content can be enabled has been the subject of an office action on the merits, and in which the following references were applied: U.S. Patent Nos. 6,029,046 to Kahn; 6,035,403 to Subbiah; and 5,983,273 to White – all of which were cited in the October 22, 2004 IDS and have been initialed and considered by the Examiner. Applicants do not believe that the '222 application bears directly on this case, since the present claims recite a different combination of features than were presented in the '222 case. However, applicants note the '222 case for the Examiner's consideration.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0127/73297.02
Application No.: 09/604,944
Office Action Dated: December 23, 2004

PATENT

For the foregoing reasons, the independent claims are patentable and the dependent claims are patentable at least by reason of their dependency. Applicants therefore submit that the present case is in condition for allowance.

Date: March 22, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter M. Ullman', written over a horizontal line.

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